

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEHRAN 03682 181154Z
ACTION NEA-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7904

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OGEN IR
SUBJ: U.S. DIPLOMATIC PRACTICES

1. MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICA ESHRAGHI SUMMONED DCM APRIL 18 AND EXPLAINED THAT MFA WAS CANVASSING SEVERAL MAJOR WESTERN COUNTRIES INCLUDING THE U.S. WITH RESPECT TO DIPLOMATIC PRACTICE IN RECOGNIZING AMBASSADORIAL TITLES. SPECIFICALLY ESHRAGHI WANTED TO KNOW WHETHER MEMBERS OF A DIPLOMATIC MISSION BELOW THE AMBASSADOR BUT WHO HAVE THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR ARE OR CAN BE INTRODUCED AS AMBASSADORS AND CARRIED IN OFFICIAL DIPLOMATIC LISTS AS AMBASSADOR. HE SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD ONLY ONE AMBASSADOR CAN BE ACCREDITED TO A HOST GOVERNMENT AND THIS WAS NOT THE QUESTION. HE KNEW THAT IN THE CASE OF THE U.S. IT WAS POSSIBLE FOR MORE THAN ONE AMBASSADOR TO BE RESIDENT IN A FOREIGN CAPITAL, AND CITED BRUSSELS AS AN EXAMPLE. HE ALSO NOTED THAT SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE USUN DELEGATION HAD THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR. WERE THEY, HE INQUIRED, INTRODUCED AND RECOGNIZED AS SUCH? HE ALSO RECALLED THE EXAMPLE OF THE U.S. MISSION IN VIET NAM WHICH INCLUDED AT LEAST TWO OFFICERS OF AMBASSADORIAL RANK OTHER THAN THE AMBASSADOR HIMSELF.

2. DCM EXPLAINED HIS PERSONAL UNDERSTANDING OF OUR PRACTICE AT LEAST IN WASHINGTON TO RECOGNIZE ONLY ONE AMBASSADOR AND TO LIST NO OTHERS IN THE DIPLOMATIC
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LIST AS AMBASSADOR, THEIR PERSONAL RANK NOTWITHSTANDING. HE SAID HE WAS LESS CERTAIN ABOUT WHAT OUR POSITION WAS WITH RESPECT TO OUR REPRESENTATIVES ABROAD WHO HAD PERSONAL RANK OF AMBASSADOR BUT WERE NOT ACCREDITED TO THE HOST COUNTRY.

3. ESHRAGHI SAID THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER HAD A

PERSONAL INTEREST IN THIS MATTER AND WOULD LIKE VERY
MUCH TO HAVE AN AUTHORITATIVE STATEMENT FROM US BY THE
TIME HE RETURNS FROM LONDON APRIL 20. WOULD APPRECIATE
A SHORT COGENT STATEMENT WE CAN PROVIDE TO ESHRAGHI BY
APRIL 20.
SULLIVAN

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